

Participatory Video for Inclusive Agricultural Research for Development

Successful agricultural research for development (AR4D) should go beyond generation of quantitative research findings, and ensure these findings feed into context-relevant development interventions. An understanding of the context in which the research takes place is therefore essential for AR4D, and ought to include all groups that make up the research context in the process: include their voices, opinions, needs and ideas and look for ways to communicate these to a variety of audiences.

What is Participatory Video?

Participatory Video (PV) is a participatory research tool that involves members of a community in creating their own video message. It is an ideal method for sharing ideas and learning, encouraging marginalized groups to identify their own needs and implement their own forms of sustainable development.

The community learns to use video technology, write their own story, interview leaders and neighbors, and tell their own story. The PV methodology collects indigenous knowledge on factors that impact the effectiveness of sustainable development interventions based on local needs.

Contributing to Enabling Development Outcomes

The cross-cutting nature of PV contributes to the achievement of development outcomes, by effectively mainstreaming elements of innovation and gender and youth empowerment in AR4D design and implementation. Innovation is strengthened by creating conditions for smallholder farmers, women, and youth to gain confidence in their abilities to succeed at new activities and improve existing local knowledge and practices.

At the same time, gender and youth empowerment occurs by engaging marginalized groups in learning activities and encouraging them to voice their stories and opinions. This provides a non-threatening mechanism that improves gender and inter-generational relationships.

Inclusive agricultural research for development: What PV can do for your Action Area

Whether implemented as a standalone project or as a tool to support ongoing integrated agricultural research interventions, PV helps to identify important overarching development themes, including:

- Community Leadership and Participation
- Knowledge, Learning and Innovation
- Gender and Inter-Generational Dynamics
- Natural Resources and Income Generation



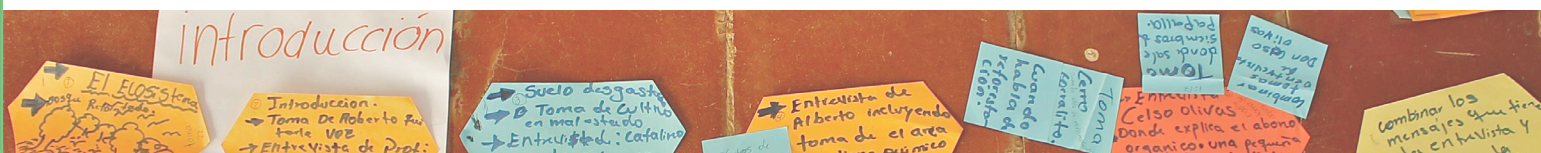
RESEARCH
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The CGIAR Research Program on Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics (Humidtropics), in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) have been using PV in the cities of Somotillo and Estelí, Nicaragua, and are looking to replicate this process in other Humidtropics action sites in Africa and Asia.

For more information, See:

Blog on project in Somotillo: <http://ow.ly/S2YJh>

Blog on project in Estelí: <http://ow.ly/S2YRT>

CCAFS Working Paper: <http://ow.ly/S2Zdj>

PV from Somotillo: <http://ow.ly/S2Z8G>

PV is simple to replicate, disseminate, and track. Therefore it can also serve as a versatile M&E tool throughout the various phases of research interventions, generating insights and feedback from specific target groups. This creates a strong sense of project ownership within the community and a more fertile ground for technology adoption and social change.

Exploring the potential of inclusive youth and gender components linked to innovation and transformation processes which stem from learning experiences at community level, PV provides a thorough understanding of the development challenges facing poor rural communities. This serves as a powerful contextual base to adequately adapt development strategies and policies to local needs, knowledge, and wants.

Timeline, Equipment, and Budget Considerations

The PV workshop takes approximately eight days, and a modular approach can be used to make the experience accessible to communities that cannot commit to an extended timeframe.

The extended duration of the workshop requires particular sensitivity to special circumstances that may arise during the process. It is especially recommended to budget for a daily participant per diem, ensuring that the request for their participation does not cause unforeseen expenses or put them in a conflicting position with their daily duties and responsibilities. However, this measure can be culturally dependent; in some regions it is a must, while in others it can be frowned upon. The best way to approach this subject should be discussed with local partners before starting the project.

The equipment used during the PV workshop can be purchased or borrowed from partners. The PV workshop is a cost-effective methodology that can be replicated several times throughout the duration of project initiatives, providing a wealth of quantitative and qualitative data to enhance project objectives and track progress.

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